



Re: Prescription request for HIV PrEP – a HIV prevention antiviral medication

Dear Australian Doctor,

Please support this patient to initiate or continue taking HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), to prevent acquisition of HIV. You may wish to utilise ASHM's PrEP Tool for clinicians about accessing and prescribing PrEP.

<https://ashm.org.au/resources/decision-making-in-prep/>

HIV PrEP is proven to be successful in reducing the rates of new HIV infections and widely used by target populations in Australia. It is a co-formulated pill containing two antivirals: tenofovir disoproxil/emtricitabine (TDF-FTC) now available as inexpensive generic products. It is readily prescribed on the PBS as an S85 restricted benefit/ specific purpose item by any medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to make it easy for the target populations to access. You are **not** required to be an S100 prescriber to prescribe PrEP. Patients without Medicare can now purchase PrEP with a private script at around the same cost as a PBS script at pharmacies in the community. Some online pharmacies have particular PrEP dispensing and pricing plans; see <https://www.pan.org.au/>

In the initial consult, please:

- Confirm HIV negative status using a fourth generation HIV antibody/antigen venous blood test from a blood test taken within the last four weeks or on the day of the first PrEP prescription.
- Screen for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and test kidney function (eGFR & urine protein/creatinine ratio)
- Screen for STIs and treat as required. For more information see the Australian STI Management Guidelines for Use in Primary Care website: <http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au/>

Please write a prescription for PrEP as follows:

Drug: tenofovir disoproxil 300mg / emtricitabine 200mg tablets  
Instruction: 1 tablet daily or on-demand regimen  
Quantity: 30  
Repeats: 2

A follow up appointment in one month's time and then every three months is required to reassess continuation of PrEP, monitor adherence, test kidney function and test for HIV and STIs. All of this information is described in more detail in ASHM's PrEP Tool for clinicians.

Yours sincerely,

Professor James McMahon ASHM President

Access further resources and links: [www.ashm.org.au/HIV/PrEP/](http://www.ashm.org.au/HIV/PrEP/) [ashm.org.au](http://ashm.org.au)

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